



# Tooele: Making Chemical Weapons History



Did you know that the Tooele region, with its majestic mountains and its broad expansive valleys, is playing a vital role in national and global affairs? In Tooele, the U.S. Army is making chemical weapons history at its Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. This facility is destroying a large “stockpile” of chemical weapons that have been stored in the area for many years.

## What are chemical weapons?

The weapons are sturdy containers of various types and sizes holding toxic chemical agents. Contrary to popular belief, chemical agents are not gases. Chemical agents are liquid in original form, however, they deteriorate into a thick, sludge-like substance over long periods of time.

## Where are the weapons located?

Deseret Chemical Depot has stored chemical weapons since 1942. Its mission is to ensure that the storage of the stockpile remains safe for the community, workers and the environment. A trained, professional workforce that oversees depot operations and storage is dedicated to safely maintaining the stockpile until it is destroyed.

## What is the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility?

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is a state-of-the-art incineration facility designed to dispose of the chemical weapons stored at the Deseret Chemical Depot safely and efficiently.

## How will the weapons be destroyed?

The Tooele facility incinerates the weapons. In using this technology, robotic equipment disassembles the weapons so that each component can be treated in a separate incinerator. Specifically, the chemical agent is drained from the weapon and burned in a liquid incinerator, while the weapon’s explosive components are destroyed in a special deactivation furnace. You can learn more about incineration in the fact sheet entitled “Incineration: A Safe, Proven Disposal Process.”

## Who is destroying the weapons?

The Army’s Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional) is responsible for safely disposing of the stockpile. In 1989, the Army awarded EG&G Defense Materials, Inc., a contract to build, test, operate and close Tooele’s facility. Many other organizations work in partnership with the Army to successfully complete this

For more information,  
contact the  
Public Outreach and  
Information Office of the  
Chemical Materials  
Agency (Provisional)  
1(800) 488-0648 or  
[www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil)

or visit the  
Tooele  
Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office  
54 South Main Street  
Tooele, Utah 84074  
Phone: (435) 882-3773  
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mission. Among these are the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the state of Utah and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Some of your family members, friends or neighbors probably work on this important project.

### How long will it take to destroy the weapons?

Disposal operations began in Tooele in 1997. Currently, it is estimated that disposal operations will last through 2008 and closure activities will be complete in 2010.

### How will the environment be protected?

The permits for the facility, which the state's Department of Environmental Quality approved, were written based on studies conducted locally. This ensures that operations at the disposal facility are protective of local citizens and the Tooele area environment.

### What will happen to the facility once the weapons are gone?

The disposal of the chemical weapons is the depot's final mission. Once the disposal of chemical weapons is complete, the facility will be decontaminated and decommissioned.

### What is the Citizens' Advisory Commission?

This commission, often called the CAC for short, is made up of nine members appointed by the governor of Utah. Seven are local citizens and two are representatives of state agencies that work closely with the chemical weapons disposal program. The purpose of this organization is to provide a link between your community and the Army. The members do not make program decisions, but they are encouraged to provide guidance and recommendations. The commission provides a local perspective to the Army so that it may manage the chemical disposal program in the most positive way for your community. The Utah CAC holds regular meetings every other month in Salt Lake City or Tooele. The meeting times and locations are announced in local newspapers, and people on the outreach office's mailing list receive notices of upcoming meetings.

### How can I contact the CAC?

For information on the current issues the commission is considering, or to find out the upcoming meeting schedule, please call the CAC secretary at (801) 538-8616.

### How can I learn more?

The Army opened the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office as a convenient "one-stop" source of information about the chemical disposal program. The office staff works closely with public affairs experts from the depot, the disposal facility and your local emergency preparedness office to ensure a comprehensive public outreach program. The outreach office has a large repository of fact sheets, brochures, exhibits and technical studies for you to peruse. The office staff frequently can be seen out in the community giving presentations, holding public meetings, distributing informational materials and attending community functions. The office also publishes a quarterly newsletter called "REACH" that you can receive at home through the mail.